Recycling Spaces: Curating Urban Evolution
The Work of Martha Schwartz Partners

Cities are constantly evolving: growing, shrinking, diversifying, sprawling, and densifying. Each phase of evolution brings a unique set of challenges to urban areas in deciding how to remain vital and healthy for long-term sustainability. One of the most important questions facing urban centers today is how to keep people attracted to live in, invest in, and participate in the city. Recycling Spaces focuses on these questions broadly through conversations with experts in the fields of landscape, economics, and urbanism, and specifically through the work of world-renowned landscape architectural office, Martha Schwartz Partners.

Martha Schwartz Partners breathes life into cities and neighborhoods by creating spaces that make people feel emotionally connected, engaged, and invested in the long-term viability of the place. Places that resonate with people are sustainable places. This expanded notion of sustainability, is the basis of the firm’s public work, and is illustrated here by a selection of the firm’s recent and ongoing design projects.

Readers will be exposed to much of this work for the first time and will be able to explore some of the issues raised through the projects and written pieces by experts on topics including:

- An expanded notion of sustainability
- The role of the urban landscape in the sustained health of the world’s cities
- Landscape as urban infrastructure
- The aesthetics of sustainability
- Why do people choose to live in cities? What qualities make them attractive?

Martha Schwartz is President of Martha Schwartz Partners in London, UK and Cambridge, Massachusetts USA. She is a Professor in Practice of Landscape Architecture at Harvard University Graduate School of Design and Co-founder of the Working Group for Sustainable Cities at Harvard University. Martha lives and works in London, UK.

Elizabeth K. Meyer is one of the leading landscape architectural theorists in the United States. In 2010, she was on the MVVA team that won the City+Arts+River design competition for the St. Louis Gateway Arch Grounds and their surroundings. In 2011, she was one of two landscape architects included in the annual DesignIntelligence rankings of Most Admired Educators in the United States.

Charles Waldheim is Professor and Chair of the faculty of Landscape Architecture at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design. His research focuses on landscape architecture in relation to contemporary urbanism. He coined the term landscape urbanism to describe emerging landscape design practices in the context of North American urbanism and has written extensively on the subject.

Emily Waugh is a Lecturer in Landscape Architecture at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design and founding principal of Survey, a studio focused on writing, editing, curating, research, graphic design, and communication. Emily lives and works in Toronto, Canada.